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General Assembly
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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Identical letters dated 20 January 2017 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I write to draw your immediate attention to the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in which more Palestinian civilians, including children, continue to be killed, including by extrajudicial execution, and severely injured as a result of the excessive use of force by Israeli occupying forces.

On Monday, 16 January 2017, a Palestinian youth, 17-year-old Qusai Al-Amour, was fatally shot in the village of Tuqou', near Bethlehem, in the occupied West Bank. Qusai was among a group of civilians protesting the Israeli occupying forces' presence in his village. Qusai was not armed with a gun or a knife, but rather with stones, in comparison with the occupying forces, who arrived in armoured military jeeps and were armed with the most sophisticated lethal weaponry. As in the case of many other killings of Palestinians by the occupying Power, video footage displayed the horrific event for the world to see. In this regard, the video of Qusai's murder clearly showed his body lying motionless on the ground in an olive grove. The video then showed the Israeli occupying forces jumping on his body, grabbing him by his arms and legs and dragging him back to their military jeeps, all while his body was limp and his head repeatedly hit the ground. His relatives and friends at the scene rushed to Qusai's aid, only to also be shot at and wounded by the Israeli soldiers.

Besides establishing the truth of the appalling murder of Qusai, the video of this tragic incident provides further evidence of the routine, inhumane and criminal actions being perpetrated by an immoral occupying force against a defenceless civilian population. This, as with so many other similar incidents, dispels the constant false narrative being spewed by Israeli officials after such heinous murders of young Palestinians are carried out.

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The day after the brutal murder of Qusai, Israeli occupying forces extrajudicially executed another Palestinian. In this age of digital technology, this barbaric murder was also captured on video for the world to see. This time, it was a 44-year-old Palestinian man, Nidal Daoud Mahdawi, from the Shweika area, north of Tulkarem, and the father of five children. The video of the incident showed Nidal walking through an illegal Israeli military checkpoint and being shot by the occupying forces. It then showed Nidal's lifeless body falling to the ground.

A week before the killings of Qusai and Nidal, another Palestinian man was killed. This time, it was Mohammed Salhi, age 32, who was killed in his home in the Al-Fara'a refugee camp, located near Nablus and Tubas. At approximately 2.30 a.m. on 10 January 2017, more than 10 Israeli soldiers broke into his home and killed Mohammed in a hail of gunfire. The occupying forces had purportedly entered Mohammed's home in order to conduct a military raid on another home. Mohammed lived with his ailing mother, who watched the murder of her son take place before her own eyes. Instead of allowing her to help her son and to grieve his death, the Israeli soldiers locked her in a small room in her home for hours while her son lay on the ground bleeding to death, until they completed their raid on the other home.

These are but a few incidents that once again reflect in stark and painful terms the occupying Power's total disregard for Palestinian life. The dignity and humanity of the Palestinian people are routinely violated and dismissed by the Israeli occupying forces, as is their basic right to life, all without consequence as the perpetrators of these crimes against our people continue to evade accountability for their violations and crimes.

As evidenced by the killings noted above and a mounting list of human rights violations and international humanitarian law violations, described in the annex to the present letter, Israel, the occupying Power, remains in complete and utter contempt of the law. Its deliberate and systematic violations and crimes are causing endless destruction, suffering and anguish for the Palestinian people. The crimes committed are intolerable and must be roundly condemned. Beyond condemnation, however, the international community, including the Security Council, must demand that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately end all its violations and crimes against Palestinian civilians and comply with its obligations under international law, a call made clearly and unequivocally by the General Assembly and the Security Council in countless resolutions, which include, most recently, resolution 2334 (2016) and which must be abided by without exception.

The Palestinian people and the goal of peace will, tragically, continue to suffer as long as Israel, the occupying Power, remains immune from the consequences of its human rights violations and crimes. In this regard, we are of the firm conviction that only accountability can remedy the prevailing culture of impunity and compel respect for international law and human rights. Implementation of the law, including that enshrined in the relevant United Nations resolutions, is absolutely imperative in this regard. The international community must take all necessary actions to ensure that Israel ceases from acting as a State above the law and to finally end its illegal occupation and oppression against the Palestinian people and their land in all its manifestations. This is the only path to peace.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 601 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 5 January 2017 (A/ES-10/738-S/2017/14), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 20 January 2017 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

5 January 2017

- The Israeli occupying navy attacked Palestinian boats that were sailing near the Al-Sudaniya area, which is some 4 nautical miles off the Gaza Shore, chased them and opened fire on them, causing serious damage to them. The attack caused one of the boats to sink, and the fisherman on board, Muhammad Hassi, has yet to be found.

6 January 2017

- A 40-year-old Palestinian man was seriously injured as a result of being run over by the car of an illegal Israeli settler while he was walking on the side of the road south of Nablus city.

8 January 2017

- Israeli occupying forces detained three Palestinians, including two minors, during military raids on several cities in the occupied West Bank.
- A group of extremist Israeli settlers, accompanied and protected by occupying forces, illegally seized a building in the occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan that belongs to Hani Sarhan, a Palestinian from East Jerusalem who was in Jordan at the time.
- Illegal settler organizations have recently been able to seize many buildings and homes in the Silwan area, turning them into illegal settlement outposts. Israeli occupying forces have also, in recent years, demolished some 88 houses in Silwan for the purpose of expanding illegal settlement activities.

9 January 2017

- Israeli occupying forces levelled Palestinian-owned land and demolished a stall in the village of Marda, near Salfit town in the West Bank, under the bogus pretext of "construction without a permit".
- Israeli occupying forces detained 20 Palestinians during large-scale military raids and arrest and search operations in several cities throughout the occupied West Bank.
- Illegal Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian vehicles while passing near the villages of Huwwara and Burin, south of Nablus, causing damage to dozens of Palestinian vehicles. Illegal settlers also physically assaulted Palestinian passengers near the two villages after forcing them to get out of their vehicles.
- Israeli occupying forces issued orders to demolish two structures in the village of Al-Fakhit, south of Al-Khalil, under the bogus pretext that the structures had been built in Area C without permission. The two structures were donated by the Italian Cooperation as part of European humanitarian assistance to

Palestinians living in Area C. Humanitarian organizations have said that Israel has demolished more structures in Area C in 2016 than in any previous year.

10 January 2017

- Israeli occupying forces shot and killed Mohammad Salhi (age 32) after violently raiding his home to gain access to another home next door. Salhi was left to bleed to death during a large-scale military raid on the Al-Fara'a refugee camp, south of Tubas.
- Israeli occupying forces assaulted an 80-year-old Palestinian woman, Shafiqa Joumaa, during a military raid on the village of Kufr Qaddoum, east of Qalqilya.
- Israeli occupying forces detained 25 Palestinians in overnight military raids on several cities in the occupied West Bank.
- Israeli occupying forces destroyed an 11-kilometre water pipeline that had been used to transport water from Atuf village to 36 Palestinian families in the Tubas localities of Ras Al-Ahmar and Al-Hadidiya, in the Jordan Valley.

11 January 2017

- An Israeli bulldozer razed a road that was rehabilitated using donors' aid near the village of Al-Boweib in Masafer Yatta, south of Al-Khalil. The road is vital and links many communities in the south of Al-Khalil.
- Israeli occupying forces detained 36 Palestinians, including a senior Palestinian official who had formerly served as Governor of Jenin, during overnight military raids throughout the West Bank.

14 January 2017

- Israeli occupying naval forces opened live fire on fishermen off the coast of the northern Gaza Strip.

15 January 2017

- Illegal Israeli settlers stormed the courtyard of Muhammad Muheisin's home, smashed outdoor furniture, damaged garden plants and shattered framed Quran verses. Muheisin and his family live on the ground floor of a six-storey building. Israeli settlers illegally took over the five upper apartments in October 2014. Since the takeover, settlers have repeatedly assaulted Muheisin and members of his family. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs documented 107 cases of settler attacks on Palestinians and their property throughout 2016.

16 January 2017

- Israeli occupying naval forces opened fire on Palestinian fishing boats and arrested two fishermen who had been sailing off the Gaza shore.

- Israeli occupying forces confiscated two Palestinian-owned tractors in the village of Khirbet Ebzeeq, east of Tubas, under the pretext that the tractors were inside a military zone.

- Israeli occupying forces started to uproot hundreds of olive trees belonging to Palestinians in an area to the east of Qalqilia, under the pretext of opening a road designated for the sole use of Jewish settlers residing in illegal West Bank settlements. One of the landowners, Mousa Al-Tabeeb, said the total number of trees intended to be uprooted is around 2,000, including 500-year-old trees.

- Israeli occupying forces killed Qusai Al-Amour (age 17) in the village of Tuqou', near Bethlehem. They had dragged him 100 metres while seriously injured, and he died shortly after. Israeli occupying forces opened fire on Palestinians who tried to help Qusai, injuring four, one of them an elderly woman.

17 January 2017

- Firas Mahmoud was forced to tear down his own house in Al-Issawiya after the occupying Power had informed him that it was going to demolish the house and force him to pay for it.

- Nidal Mahdawi (age 44), from the suburb of Sheiwkeh, north of Tulkarm, was shot dead by Israeli occupying forces at an illegal military checkpoint.